

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19416 211542Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSM-03 HA-05 IO-13 /085 W
-----066131 220012Z /70

R 211514Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2872
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION SINAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 19416

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICAL TURMOIL

SUMMARY: SALEM RESIGNS? NDP TO BE ESTABLISHED FORMALLY
IN NOVEMBER, AT SAME TIME AS REFERENDUM HELD ON ASU.
PARTY ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, WITH SADAT SCHEDULED SPEAK
AGAIN ON T.V. END SUMMARY.

1. SALEM RESIGNS? AUGUST 21 RIGHT-WING WEEKLY AL
AHRAR CLAIMS PRIME MINISTER SALEM HAS RESIGNED AND WILL
RETIRE TO PRIVATE LIFE ONCE THIS RESIGNATION IS ACCEPTED.
SALEM, REPORTEDLY, REVEALED RESIGNATION AT RECENT
MEETING OF CENTER PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ACCORDING
AL AHRAR, MEETING WAS EXTREMELY HEATED, WITH 24 MP'S
REFUSING TO AGREE MERGE CENTER WITH SADAT'S NEW PARTY.
THE MAJORITY (FAVORING MERGER) SAID TO HAVE BEEN LED BY
MINISTERS MAHMOUD (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) AND AL SAWI (INFOR-
MATION). NONE OF DAILIES CONTAIN REPORT ON SUPPOSED
MEETING.

2. NDP IN NOVEMBER. DAILY PRESS REPORTS SADAT WILL
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FORMALLY APPLY FOR LEGALIZATION OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (NDP) IN MID-NOVEMBER. AT SAME TIME, HE IS EX-
PECTED INTRODUCE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SUBSEQUENT RATIFICATION BY
REFERENDUM, DEALING WITH CONSEQUENCES OF ASU DISSOLUTION.

3. PARTY AFFAIRS. PARTY OFFICIAL, OVER WEEKEND, INDICATED

NDP WILL BE OPEN TO ALL, WITH NO SCREENING PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP. SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AGAIN ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AUGUST 22, ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY FOR PARTY OFFICE. AS PART OF TREND TOWARDS CLEAN POLITICS, PARTY ANNOUNCED IT IS RETURNING 18,000 POUNDS TO THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION; NEW PARTY WILL BE FINANCED SOLELY BY ITS MEMBERS (CONTRIBUTION HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME PRESS ELEMENTS AND BY OPPOSITION).

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HAD NO OTHER REPORTS THAT SALEM HAS RESIGNED. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT BEEN MUCH IN THE LIME-LIGHT RECENTLY AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED RUMORS OF HIS POSSIBLE RESIGNATION. IT IS THEREFORE NOT UNLIKELY THAT HE HAS IN FACT DONE SO. EMBASSY WILL TRY TO CHECK OUT THIS REPORT IN THE COURSE OF NEXT FEW DAYS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
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